

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI
NORTHERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA PLAINTIFF

VERSUS CIVIL ACTION NO. 3:16-CV-00489-CWR-RHWR

THE HINDS COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS,
HINDS COUNTY SHERIFF, ET AL. DEFENDANTS

VIDEOCONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS
BEFORE THE HONORABLE CARLTON W. REEVES,
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE,
JANUARY 18, 2022,
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

(Appearances noted herein.)

REPORTED BY:

CANDICE S. CRANE, RPR, CCR #1781
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER
501 E. Court Street, Suite 2.500
Jackson, Mississippi 39201
Telephone: (601) 608-4187
E-mail: Candice_Crane@mssd.uscourts.gov

APPEARANCES VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE:

FOR THE PLAINTIFF:

CHRISTOPHER N. CHENG, ESQ.
SARAH G. STEEGE, ESQ.
LAURA L. COWALL, ESQ.
HELEN VERA, ESQ.
MITZI DEASE-PAIGE, ESQ.

FOR THE DEFENDANTS:

WILLIAM T. SILER, ESQ.
NICHOLAS F. MORISANI, ESQ.
RAYFORD G. CHAMBERS, ESQ.

ALSO PRESENT:

ANTHONY NJOKU
ELIZABETH SIMPSON
DAVID PARRISH

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2
3 THE COURT: Good morning. Can you-all hear me? I see
4 people nodding.

5 MR. SILER: We can, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Okay. I'm going to ask unless you're
7 speaking to keep your mic muted.

8 But who do I have on for the United States?

9 MR. CHENG: This is Christopher Cheng; I'll be speaking
10 for the United States. We also have Laura Cowall, Helen Vera,
11 Sarah Steege, and Mitzi Dease-Paige from the U.S. Attorney's
12 Office. And we also have some staff listening in, Your Honor,
13 Mr. Njoku.

14 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Cheng.

15 Who do I have on for Hinds County?

16 MR. SILER: Your Honor, this is Tommy Siler. Ray
17 Chambers is also on, and Nick Morisani is joining us by
18 telephone.

19 THE COURT: And is -- I know we've discussed this
20 matter before. Is anyone separately representing the sheriff?

21 MR. SILER: Well, Phelps Dunbar is representing both --

22 THE COURT: Okay.

23 MR. SILER: -- defendants. And -- but Mr. Chambers is
24 also here. He, I think, is here representing -- Ray, don't
25 let me put words in your mouth, but you represent the sheriff

1 as well.

2 THE COURT: Is that correct, Mr. Chambers?

3 MR. CHAMBERS: That is correct. And, Your Honor, just
4 for another note (AUDIO GAP). That is correct, but the Board
5 is approving the sheriff's appointed attorney (AUDIO GAP) that
6 I'm sure that he'll be making an appearance once he's
7 approved.

8 THE COURT: Okay. That's on the Board's agenda today;
9 right?

10 MR. CHAMBERS: Yes, sir.

11 THE COURT: Okay. And who is that person? I mean, can
12 you disclose it yet? I mean, I know it hasn't been approved I
13 guess. I saw it at the bottom of the agenda.

14 MR. CHAMBERS: It's Attorney John Hall.

15 THE COURT: Okay. John Hall, right, H-a-l-l?

16 MR. CHAMBERS: Yes, sir.

17 THE COURT: Okay. And I do know -- I see the monitors
18 are also present, Ms. Simpson, and who else is on your team,
19 Ms. Simpson?

20 MS. SIMPSON: Dave Parrish is on my team and on this
21 call.

22 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

23 All right. Thank you-all for making yourselves
24 available for this call. This call as you can imagine is in
25 response to the emergency motion that was filed on Friday

1 after -- sometime Friday. This Court became aware of it
2 Friday afternoon, but I want to talk about that particular
3 motion and also the upcoming hearing on the show cause -- in
4 response to the show cause order.

5 Now, the motion, Mr. Siler, indicates that Mr. Morisani
6 has been diagnosed with COVID, and he's one of the lead
7 counsel I guess on behalf of the County in this matter. And
8 your motion also indicates that you and Mr. Morisani have been
9 working together, and you may have been exposed -- well, you
10 were exposed at least to him.

11 Have you been diagnosed with anything, Mr. Siler?

12 MR. SILER: No, Your Honor. I'm sorry.

13 THE COURT: Okay. And with respect to Mr. Morisani's
14 status, what's -- and, Mr. Morisani, you may speak for
15 yourself or whatever. But what's your status, Mr. Morisani?

16 MR. MORISANI: At this time, Your Honor, I'm still
17 quarantining at home, and I understand that I'll be able to
18 return to work tomorrow.

19 THE COURT: All right. And obviously the -- I think
20 the motion indicates that the fact that Mr. Morisani came down
21 with COVID has impaired the County and its ability to prepare
22 adequately for the hearing that the Court had scheduled for
23 January 24th. I do believe that under -- under that schedule,
24 the parties were to have exchanged exhibits and other things,
25 witness lists, exhibits, and come to any stipulated facts, I

1 believe by either Wednesday or Thursday of this week. Maybe
2 it's Thursday, the 21st, is that correct, or was it the 20th?

3 Anyway, the parties -- I mean, you-all will agree that
4 you-all were supposed to -- if this matter were to go for a
5 hearing on the 24th, there was some deadlines that y'all had
6 to meet prior to the 24th; right?

7 MR. SILER: Yes, Your Honor.

8 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Now, based on the
9 motion, in paragraph 11 of the motion, Mr. Siler says that the
10 Government does not oppose continuing the matter for purposes
11 of -- because of Mr. Morisani's COVID diagnosis, and is that
12 correct, Mr. Cheng?

13 MR. CHENG: I think it's more accurate to say that we
14 defer to the Court, Your Honor. We don't take a position
15 whether to oppose or support it, but we completely defer to
16 the Court.

17 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Now, I am aware that the
18 motion also -- that Hinds County put the Court on notice that
19 the defendants are in the process of drafting a motion to
20 terminate or modify the 2016 consent decree pursuant to the
21 Prison Litigation Reform Act, the PLRA. That motion has not
22 been filed yet.

23 When does the defendants believe that they will file
24 that particular motion?

25 MR. SILER: Your Honor, a lot of that has to do with

1 whether the Court's going to continue the hearing. When we
2 began -- we didn't initially want to file this motion at this
3 particular point in time, but when the hearing got set, it
4 sort of -- we felt like we had to get moving on dealing with
5 that, and our intention was to file it either Friday of last
6 week or today.

7 If we're going to continue the hearing, we're -- we can
8 certainly put that off. Our whole purpose of this was not to
9 sandbag and put the Court in a difficult position -- because
10 we understand, because I know the Court does -- if the PLRA
11 has sort of a time limit, you know, deadlines on it when we
12 file a motion like this. We're not trying to make anybody's
13 life miserable trying to deal with it. That's why we wanted
14 the Court to know that in addition to the fact that
15 Mr. Morisani was dealing with health issues, that we just
16 wanted you to be aware that was something we were going to do
17 if -- if -- so that's a longwinded way of getting around to
18 saying this: If we're going to go forward with the hearing
19 next week, then we're going to probably file the motion
20 hopefully today. If we're not going forward with it, then we
21 are not going to be rushing through to get that motion filed.

22 And as a matter of fact, if it would help with
23 scheduling, we can -- we can work through with everybody and
24 report to the Court's calendar about when the right time to
25 file it would be.

1 THE COURT: Well, from reading the assertions there in
2 this motion, if the Court were to put it -- delay the hearing
3 by a week or two or even three weeks, I believe that your
4 motion suggests that no matter when the Court resets it, the
5 County anticipates filing a motion to terminate the consent
6 decree.

7 MR. SILER: That's correct, Your Honor.

8 THE COURT: So if the Court were to say we're going to
9 reset this to January 31st, I believe what I've read in the
10 papers is that on January 28th, I could very well expect a
11 motion to terminate the consent decree to be filed on the 28th
12 of January. And therefor the County says that triggers an
13 automatic stay, and therefor it doesn't matter that the Court
14 would be prepared to hear this.

15 I'm just using a random date as the 31st for right now,
16 and that's not the date. I mean, I expect that it may be a
17 little bit later than that.

18 But am I to understand that the County intends, no
19 matter when this Court sets this hearing, that the County
20 intends to file a motion to terminate the settlement
21 agreement?

22 MR. SILER: That's correct, Your Honor. And the timing
23 is just a matter of not trying to burden the Court with a lot
24 of things at once. I guess we just wanted to put the Court on
25 notice that that was coming, and we'll try to get it done at a

1 time that's as convenient as possible for everybody, including
2 the Court.

3 THE COURT: Okay. Now, Mr. Cheng, the Government
4 suggests that in deferring to the Court, that if the Court
5 does grant the request, the motion to continue the case, the
6 Government says that as represented by Mr. Siler in the motion
7 that the United States requests that it be reset -- that the
8 hearing be reset as the earliest date convenient for the Court
9 in February of 2022.

10 Is that an accurate representation of the Government's
11 position, Mr. Cheng?

12 MR. CHENG: Yes, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: I do think that a continuance is in order
14 due -- based on the allegations -- based on the
15 representations of Mr. Morisani's status. And the Court
16 looked at its schedule, and I do want to give the parties
17 sufficient time to do what they deem is necessary.

18 I do agree with the Government, though, that the
19 hearing ought to occur as early as possible, and instead of on
20 a date that might necessarily be convenient for all parties,
21 on a date that's going to be primarily convenient for the
22 Court. And in that case, I'm going to reset it to
23 February the 14th.

24 And is there any reason for anyone to believe that the
25 Court's projected -- I think the Court's earlier order

1 suggested that the hearing would proceed and would be
2 concluded with all the evidence and testimony to be offered by
3 either of the parties should take no more than four days
4 between the parties.

5 Is there any reason from any of the parties that they
6 would anticipate that a hearing should -- could not occur on
7 the Court's announced, previously announced schedule, two days
8 for the Government and two days for the defendants?

9 MR. CHENG: Your Honor, I don't think there's a problem
10 on the part of DOJ. I am not totally sure about the
11 monitoring team. I understand there might be a scheduling
12 issue on the 15th for Dr. Dudley, but I would defer to a
13 monitor on that issue.

14 THE COURT: Well, let me first say I expect the hearing
15 to occur here in open court. Obviously, if there's a witness
16 who has to testify, including Mr. Dudley or anyone else who
17 has to testify -- well, we'll talk about that. For my
18 monitors, they can testify remotely if necessary. I'm not
19 sure if any of the other witnesses will be given that right.

20 But other than Mr. Dudley, any difficulties with any of
21 the other witnesses or parties? Well, maybe I shouldn't open
22 it up to difficulties, because the Court is going to set this
23 for the week of February the 14th. And we will operate around
24 that schedule.

25 Again, the two days for the Government and two days for

1 the defendant, and with the final day being an opportunity for
2 the parties to use that opportunity for closing arguments or
3 closing responses or something in that nature.

4 Now --

5 MR. SILER: Judge, could I -- could I inter- -- or
6 mention I hate to bring this up, but I am -- I have a trip
7 scheduled to begin on February the 15th.

8 THE COURT: You have what to begin on February the
9 15th?

10 MR. SILER: Yes, sir. (AUDIO GAP).

11 THE COURT: You have what? I didn't hear you. I'm
12 sorry. I'm sorry; I'm speaking over you. I didn't hear what
13 you said that you have on February the 15th.

14 MR. SILER: I have a trip scheduled for which I have
15 already bought plane tickets and reserved rooms and got a lot
16 of people depending on me to be there. It will keep me -- I
17 guess I'd better say that my wife will shoot me if I can't
18 make that trip, you know, if that makes any difference.

19 THE COURT: I'm -- you were going in and out,
20 Mr. Siler. I did hear that you say you have a trip on
21 February the 15th that you've purchased -- you've already
22 bought the trip. You've already bought a hotel, and you said
23 something about your wife?

24 MR. SILER: Just that she would shoot me if I fouled
25 this trip up.

1 THE COURT: In that -- I mean, I just don't see it as
2 possible for this Court to delay putting this on, and I'm not
3 suggesting that you miss your trip at all. But I think the
4 14th -- setting it by the 14th of February, which is almost a
5 month away, allows someone else, if necessary, to help get up
6 to speed.

7 Well, before we do that, let's talk about what this
8 hearing might look like. Now, obviously I've been involved in
9 at least one of these before in the *DePriest versus Walnut*
10 Grove case where the state moved to terminate a consent
11 decree, and there was a lot of testimony and evidence taken in
12 that particular case.

13 Here, we have all of these monitors' reports through
14 November of 2021, and we have, in my order scheduling the
15 contempt hearing, I alluded to the fact that the parties --
16 well, not alluded to the fact. The parties were supposed to
17 submit any stipulated facts and agree and seek agreement on
18 that that they could.

19 Do the parties expect that there will be stipulations
20 reached in this case, or will we have to have evidence on --
21 you know, evidence that takes us -- I don't know where it
22 might take us. And I'll ask the Government first, Mr. Cheng,
23 what about any stipulations that the parties ought to be able
24 to reach?

25 MR. CHENG: Well, Your Honor, it was interrupted a bit

1 by I think Mr. Morisani's medical situation. But our
2 understanding is that the defendants are reluctant to admit
3 monitoring reports into evidence, so we don't have a
4 stipulation even on that part of the record. And it isn't
5 likely that we'll be able to come up with stipulated facts
6 that are going to be helpful to the Court on many of the major
7 contempt issues.

8 I should also alert the Court that if we can't resolve
9 some of these evidentiary issues, it's likely we will be
10 filing a motion *in limine*. We have also been trying to come
11 to some type of stipulation about expert qualifications and
12 authenticity of documents. We're a little more hopeful on
13 that issue; that also was unresolved.

14 So the bottom line is if we can't get agreement on some
15 of these types of big picture, relatively noncontroversial
16 items, prolonged argument about the specific facts that would
17 make the record I think isn't going to be very productive.

18 THE COURT: Okay. Do the defendants disagree with that
19 assessment?

20 MR. SILER: Your Honor, I'd say we don't disagree with
21 it necessarily. We will be able to stipulate to some facts,
22 but my feeling on this is that we're definitely going to have
23 to put on testimony. As I've said before, none of these
24 monitors, no one's been in this facility for over -- or almost
25 two years, and so the reports themselves don't seem to us to

1 accurately reflect the amount of changes that have gone on
2 there. And so we believe that there's going to have to be
3 testimony to give the Court an accurate picture of what's
4 going on at that facility.

5 THE COURT: Okay. All right. I hear you. I was not
6 going to, over the last year or so -- since the County alleged
7 that COVID has disrupted things so badly in many of their
8 previous violations -- there's no way in the world I was going
9 to put the monitors at risk with being over in a facility
10 where the central command staff all came down with COVID and
11 killed the former sheriff.

12 So, you know, that's -- you know, we accept that we
13 blame COVID for certain things, but I hear you. So we -- all
14 right.

15 MS. SIMPSON: Your Honor?

16 THE COURT: Yes, Ms. Simpson.

17 MS. SIMPSON: Given the point that was just raised, I
18 thought I should probably mention to counsel that in
19 anticipation for -- of the hearing being continued and the
20 fact that my team had set aside next week for the hearing, we
21 are going to use that week to be on site. So Mr. Parrish and
22 I will definitely be on site.

23 Mr. Moeser is awaiting test results on COVID, and that
24 will determine whether he's on site or not. And I believe
25 Dr. Dudley is going to do the site visit remotely. So we will

1 be on site next week and be able to report our findings at the
2 time of the hearing.

3 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Simpson. That's
4 helpful.

5 MR. CHAMBERS: Your Honor?

6 THE COURT: Yes.

7 MR. CHAMBERS: This is Ray Chambers. I just wanted to
8 bring to the Court's attention that the week of February 12th
9 to the 16th, all the Board of Supervisors will be at
10 Washington, DC, for the National Conference of County
11 Legislators.

12 THE COURT: Well, thank you, Mr. Chambers. I hear
13 that. It's not -- well, does that -- will they be removed
14 from office if they don't attend that particular thing?

15 MR. CHAMBERS: No, sir. But I just wanted to bring
16 that out to the Court just in case for any reason you wanted
17 to hear from them particularly at the hearing.

18 THE COURT: Okay. Well, they can choose not to come to
19 this hearing if they want to. This hearing is going to --
20 there's no need for the Court to continue to delay. I realize
21 the County may file its motion to terminate, and the County's
22 position is that once they file this motion, there's an
23 automatic stay. So I would encourage the County if they do do
24 that, they should go ahead and file their motion as soon as
25 possible.

1 And I understood Mr. Siler's -- the motion that the
2 Court is hearing today, I understood that the Government does
3 not intend to file -- did not intend to file a response to the
4 current motion to continue for COVID reasons. But I suspect
5 the United States will file a response if the County proceeds
6 with filing the motion to terminate the settlement agreement.

7 Is that correct, Mr. Cheng?

8 MR. CHENG: I think that's accurate, Your Honor. As a
9 matter of fact -- actually we're getting a little bit of an
10 echo. I think there's a line open. Somebody might want to
11 mute their sound.

12 THE COURT: Okay.

13 MR. CHENG: It's 251-459-2001.

14 So, Your Honor, yes, we would file a response if
15 there's a motion for a PLRA motion. Additionally, we think in
16 some ways that motion is almost like a dispositive motion.
17 They should be required to file it before the evidentiary
18 hearing rather than just filing it whenever they wish. It
19 would certainly avoid a lot of wasted time and effort if they
20 file it at a time when the Court can hear any relevant
21 evidence on that issue.

22 We don't actually think a motion like that has any
23 grounds, but nonetheless because there is this receivership
24 issue pending, to avoid wasteful resources, there should be
25 some restriction on when they can file the motion.

1 THE COURT: Thank you. Thank you. That actually makes
2 sense.

3 Since the defendants are already working on the motion,
4 Mr. Siler, are the defendants prepared to file their motion by
5 1:00 p.m., on Friday, January 21st?

6 MR. SILER: Yes, Your Honor, we can file it on or
7 before then.

8 THE COURT: Okay. The Government then will have until
9 the 27th to respond. Is that sufficient time for the
10 Government, Mr. Cheng?

11 MR. CHENG: Yes, Your Honor, I believe so.

12 THE COURT: Okay. And to the extent the defendant
13 needs to file a reply, it should do so by close of business
14 January 31st.

15 MR. SILER: We can do that, Your Honor.

16 THE COURT: Okay. And if the Court needs to hear
17 anything prior to that, we'll let the parties know. So we're
18 going to -- we're still moving forward, unless the Court stays
19 it based on the briefing that will be filed, this hearing will
20 begin on February the 14th. It's my anticipation the evidence
21 will be from February 14th through the 17th. Again, the 18th
22 will be a date for closing arguments.

23 The other portions of the order are still in effect,
24 except for, you know, again, if there are any -- I'm moving
25 the timeframe for the stipulations obviously. And the witness

1 lists and the exhibit lists, if there are any exhibit lists,
2 witness lists, stipulations, proposed findings of fact and
3 conclusions of law, they should all be submitted by the close
4 of business on February the 9th, which is Wednesday before the
5 14th.

6 And, of course, the other request is still applicable;
7 that is, I think in the earlier order I told the parties to go
8 ahead and be in a position to present names of potential
9 receivers, so if the Court were to take that step, there could
10 be little delay in trying to find appropriate persons for
11 that.

12 MR. CHENG: Your Honor?

13 THE COURT: Yes, Mr. Cheng.

14 MR. CHENG: I think that sounds reasonable to the
15 department. We do have a question about order of
16 presentation. We were assuming the United States goes first,
17 but we did want to clear that up with the Court and make sure
18 that was also the Court's thoughts and the defendant's views.

19 THE COURT: That was the Court's thoughts, but since it
20 is a motion on contempt on the -- you know, on the agreement
21 itself. But, you know, let me hear from the defendants in
22 case they -- because we do have a court reporter here. I do
23 want that -- for the record, the court reporter is present
24 today.

25 Does the defendant oppose that order of proof?

1 MR. SILER: No, Your Honor. I think that would be
2 acceptable to the defendant.

3 THE COURT: Okay.

4 MR. CHENG: And, Your Honor?

5 THE COURT: Yes, Mr. Cheng.

6 MR. CHENG: Also rebuttal, we assume the two days also
7 includes some time for rebuttal. So after the defendants
8 presented their case, the monitors can respond. And when the
9 monitors speak, the defendants can respond as well.

10 THE COURT: We may -- we may set aside some time for
11 rebuttal, but I'm not going to -- any rebuttal will be done on
12 that Friday, but we're going to do closings on Friday as well.
13 So any rebuttal will be limited, too, and you will know the
14 week of the trial how much time you will have for rebuttal.
15 It won't be long. I mean, it won't be much time.

16 And I'll tell the parties now, we will do whatever we
17 can do to stay within that particular timeframe, that one
18 week. It may require -- it may require that we are here a
19 little bit longer than from 9:00 to 5:00, and it may require
20 that on some of the days; it may. It probably should not, but
21 it may, so just be prepared.

22 We will social distance in the courtroom as much as
23 possible. I mean, the parties and lawyers -- we really have
24 only lawyers and witnesses and parties, but this courtroom is
25 big enough for people to spread out even if some persons are

1 sitting in the jury box or out of the way.

2 All the lawyers, for example, do not have to sit at
3 counsel table if they don't want to. We will do our best to
4 protect each other.

5 Mr. Chambers, to the extent that there will be another
6 lawyer involved in the case after the County has approved,
7 they should enter their -- Mr. Hall should enter his
8 appearance immediately and be prepared to participate at
9 whatever level he wishes or whatever that week of the 14th.

10 MR. CHAMBERS: Yes, sir.

11 THE COURT: All right. Is there anything else we need
12 to take care of?

13 MR. CHENG: Yes, Your Honor, two administrative issues.
14 The first is, we will be in touch with the courtroom deputy
15 about exhibits and how the Court prefers the exhibits, in
16 terms of how many notebooks or copies everyone wants or if
17 there's anything else we should be aware of.

18 But related to that issue is the issue of the personal
19 identifier information. As we were going through the
20 exhibits, we noticed that Ms. Simpson, for example, cites the
21 number of incident reports. There are a number of compendia
22 of incident reports that have some sensitive or PII. We were
23 thinking about filing a motion to seal and wanted to give the
24 Court a head's up on that.

25 While redaction is possible, it might end up with an

1 exhibit that has so much stuff edited out, it's not that
2 useful to the Court. But we do want to bring that up in case
3 the Court has any preferences about how to handle the PII
4 issues.

5 THE COURT: Okay. We'll be able to give you some
6 direction shortly on that. I mean, I think sealing certain --
7 well, sealing some of this information would be appropriate.
8 I'm not sure if everything ought to be sealed automatically,
9 but the parties should do their best to make sure that there
10 is no personal identifying information. Particularly
11 information that could be used in a way to harm any of these
12 persons who might -- whose identification might be disclosed
13 in some way.

14 Is there anything else we need to take care of?

15 MR. CHENG: I believe Ms. Simpson flagged one more
16 issue for me. If the defendants file a motion under the PLRA,
17 would they be objecting to Ms. Simpson touring as part of
18 their effort to stay the Court's orders?

19 MR. SILER: To be frank with you, I have not even
20 considered that possibility, and I don't know that I've got a
21 response available to it right at the moment, Your Honor.

22 THE COURT: All right. Well, right now she's disclosed
23 she intends to -- she and her team, Mr. Parrish, intend to be
24 there during the week of the -- some portion during the week
25 of the 24th, and I would imagine as in previous instances,

1 there's already a request for documents or other things that
2 might be out there that the County has already -- that is
3 either producing or has produced, because she's been doing --
4 the team has been doing their job on a monthly basis, anyway.
5 So if obviously -- obviously if that's going to be part of the
6 defendants -- if a stay would abrogate her right to conduct
7 any of her monitoring duties, obviously the sooner the
8 defendants file that the better.

9 So, I mean, we'll deal with that if it comes. I mean,
10 right now she's announced that she's scheduled to be there at
11 some point during the week of the 24th. And I imagine --
12 Ms. Simpson, please tell me if I'm wrong. I assume there's
13 already been some communication with persons on the ground
14 there who you normally talk to about the information that you
15 generally need to do your monitoring reports, anyway; is that
16 correct?

17 MS. SIMPSON: That's correct. We have let the
18 compliance coordinator know that we're planning on being
19 on-site and the documents that we would like to review before
20 being on-site. He's the one we normally coordinate these site
21 visits with.

22 THE COURT: Okay. Well, thank you.

23 Is there anything else?

24 MR. CHENG: Nothing from the United States, Your Honor.

25 THE COURT: All right.

1 MR. SILER: Nothing from the defendants, Your Honor.

2 THE COURT: All right. Well, thank you-all again for
3 making yourselves available. I look forward to receiving any
4 filings that the parties wish to file, and obviously I'll see
5 you on February 14th.

6 This concludes all that the Court has in this matter.

7 The Court is now in recess.

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COURT REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Candice S. Crane, Official Court Reporter for the United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing pages contain a full, true, and correct transcript of the proceedings had in the forenamed case at the time and place indicated, which proceedings were stenographically recorded by me to the best of my skill and ability.

I further certify that the transcript fees and format comply with those prescribed by the Court and Judicial Conference of the United States.

THIS, the 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/ Candice S. Crane, RPR CCR

Candice S. Crane, RPR, CCR #1781
Official Court Reporter
United States District Court
Candice_Crane@mssd.uscourts.gov